

*Wintertime at the Celery Bog*

View from the City Summit: Accomplishments and Aspirations

Mayor John Dennis

Like many residents of West Lafayette, I start my morning with a cup of coffee and the latest copy of the *Journal and Courier*, and head to my favorite chair with my dog, Abbey, at my side to have a moment of information-gathering and contemplation. As I read the paper, I realize just how fortunate we are to have such an amazing place to call home here in West Lafayette.

Your government and we citizens share in the pride of great outdoor recreation opportunities, safe roads and streets, low crime rate, a strong financial outlook based on logical, well-planned growth, and our continued high quality of life and great city services. We are all well aware that those critical issues make West Lafayette strong and are the continued focus and commitment of this administration for 2012.

Infrastructure projects such as Cumberland Avenue, Salisbury Street, Happy Hollow and Yeager Roads will show further progress in 2012. We will be expanding our nationally recognized pedestrian/bike trails and parks, and keeping our focus on being greener and leaner.

These are very exciting times in West Lafayette; businesses want to invest here and homes are sprouting up all over the northern quadrant of our city. New and creative approaches to keeping our citizens safe and secure are being presented through our strategic plan. More public art, improved access to city services and information, and a renewed enthusiasm on the part of city department heads and staff will further our vision of making West Lafayette one of the best cities in the State of Indiana.

Heroes Among Us

Volunteer Recognition Awards were given to **Susan Ulrich, Linda Eales, Dot Wankat, Karen Springer** and **Tanny Dawson-Snyder** as a gesture of gratitude at the February 6 City Summit/City Council meeting.

continued inside



Susan Ulrich, Volunteer Award Winner



On the Horizon

It has been an honor to serve as Mayor of West Lafayette over the past four years, and I am very appreciative of all the support I have received. Your encouragement and enthusiasm drives my desire to continue to improve this wonderful city.

My work in office is not yet finished, and I am excited to move forward and keep the community informed of the latest projects and developments. In order to continue building a fresh, high level of quality service, changes are on the horizon. Not only will our website and quarterly newsletter have a new look, but some new faces will soon join the staff here at the City of West Lafayette, including Information Technology Manager, Anthony Newman, and the new Fire Chief, Timothy J. Heath.

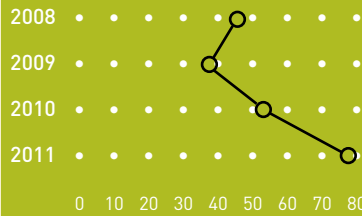
Additional changes have also been designated among current city employees. City Engineer Dave Buck has been named the Public Works Director to assure the most efficient and economical use of the resources for the engineering, wastewater treatment utility, and street and sanitation departments. Diane Foster, who has served as the city's Human Resources Director for twelve years, has been named an official department head.

Excitement is also brewing for new developments, among those the IU Health Arnett medical facility in Wabash Commons and Fire Station No. 3. Looking for ways to incentivize growth within our community by focusing on future developments is among my top priorities.

I thoroughly enjoy this great experience as mayor of my hometown, and I am looking forward to our city's bright future. There is certainly no greater honor than serving the community that I love.

Winning the War on Drugs

FELONY DRUG ARRESTS



Felony drug arrests have tripled since 2009 when the West Lafayette Narcotics Unit was established. The 10-officer special unit, led by Investigations Commander Lt. Troy Harris, has made over 50 felony arrests and recovered \$400,000 worth

in drugs and \$50,000 in cash in the past three years. The rise of arrests can be attributed to the vigilance and hard work of the unit, as well as from the help of local citizens via crime hotlines. The Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office WeTip Hotline (1-800-78-CRIME) is 100% anonymous, available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and offers up to a \$1,000 reward if the tip results in a prosecution.

According to Lt. Harris, "The most common signs of potential drug activity are unusual amounts of foot or vehicular traffic at a residence over a short period of time, someone who always pays in cash, or someone who is unemployed, yet has a high standard of living." If you have a tip for the police, please contact the WeTip Hotline or Lt. Harris at (765) 775-5223.



Snow Business

Indiana winters can be unpredictable, ranging from sub-zero to spring-like temperatures. But if snow is in the forecast, be prepared to deal with it. Rick Walker, Code Enforcement Supervisor of the Neighborhood Resource Team, reminds West Lafayette residents to clear snow and ice from publicly-used sidewalks on and around their property six hours after daylight and after the snow has stopped falling to avoid a \$50/day fine.

New change in effect: Property owners of rental units can also be held ultimately accountable for code compliance, regardless of exterior maintenance agreements in existence. Walker advises pre-arranging for snow removal during absences, until winter melts into spring. A list of snow removal services are listed on the City of West Lafayette website or by calling the Neighborhood Resource Team at (765) 775-5200.



New Fire Chief

Timothy J. Heath was named Fire Chief for the City of West Lafayette, effective January 19 by Mayor Dennis. Heath joined the City in 1990 and has served as Sergeant and Lieutenant over the last four years. Prior to coming to West Lafayette, Heath served as a Firefighter and Staff Sergeant in the Air Force and worked at the Indianapolis International Airport. His appointment will further develop the department's overall training programs for firefighters, enhance partnerships with local fire service agencies, and utilize advancing technologies, according to Dennis.

19th Annual Mor' Danc'n Recital

Months of preparation will culminate in a brilliant explosion of music, lights, colorful costumes and dancing at Purdue University's Loeb Playhouse, the setting for Morton Community Center's annual dance recital. On Saturday, April 28 at 4 pm, hundreds of dancers, ages 2 ½ to adult will showcase their talents in tap, ballet, jazz, hip hop, modern, lyrical jazz, and the show-stopping "Dad's dances" to a packed audience. Director LaVerne Mikhail, along with her talented cast of instructors, choreographers and teaches dance numbers for the annual event. For tickets and program information, contact Brenda Lorenz, (765) 775-5120, at the West Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department.



Roadwork Ahead

- **Cumberland Avenue** will be reconstructed from Yeager Road to Salisbury Street between March and November. The roadwork contract was awarded to Rieth Riley Construction Company of Lafayette. All properties along the road will be accessible during the construction period, although multiple closures and detours will be required throughout the duration of the project.
- **Yeager Road** will be partially closed at the intersection of Yeager and Northwestern Avenue in June and July for the construction of a modern roundabout. The Yeager Road project extends from Northwestern to US 52, is federally funded by INDOT, and managed by Milestone Construction Company. Utility relocation work will continue through March.
- **Harrison Street** is open, including the city's second new modern roundabout at Martin C. Jischke Drive. Work will continue in the spring to finish the sidewalks and install surface asphalt and pavement markings.
- **Happy Hollow Road** from North River Road to US 52 will be undergoing major road reconstruction, financed by federal aid and administered by INDOT. Because several properties along the project are considered historically significant, additional steps are necessary to determine any impacts on these properties to ensure that the historical values will be protected.
- **Street resurfacing and sidewalk repairs** will begin for those in need of repair once bids from contractors are received in April.



Safety is No Accident

Keeping Cumberland and Happy Hollow students safer en route to school is now realized under a national grant campaign called "Safe Routes to School." The grant includes fluorescent reflector clips and zipper pulls for backpacks/coats, LED flashlights and ponchos for wet weather. In order to encourage more students to walk or bike to school, the grant also provides solar-powered pedometers to track their steps. As the organized groups of illuminated students walk to and from school, they become a "Walking School Bus" – easy to spot for safety's sake.



Beautification Award Winners

- ▲ Dave and Cornelia Petriz - landscaped their ravine-edge lot with creative water features and hundreds of hostas that fill beds and line walkways.
- ▼ Bob and Olga Jeffares – showcase colorful Japanese maples, dogwoods, redbuds, tulips, crocuses, begonias and purple irises in their gardens and yard.



Earth laughs in flowers.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Stash Your Trash

The curbside recycling project has been so successful that many residents have outgrown their original red recycling bin. The City now offers 48 or 96 gallon totes for purchase for recycling or garbage disposal. The lids are color-coded: yellow for recycling; black for garbage. The 48 gallon tote costs \$59.33, and the 96 gallon tote is \$69.55. You may use your own containers as long as they are clearly marked for recycling or garbage pickup. Contact Tonya Vanaman at the Street and Sanitation Department at (765) 775-5242 for more information.

Heroes Among Us *continued*

Susan Ulrich | Avid Nature Lover and Advocate

She's a founding member of NICHES and serves as president of the NICHES Endowment Foundation. Susan is actively involved at the Celery Bog, Banks of the Wabash and compiled the first DNR Breeding Atlas for Warren County. In addition, she and her husband Ted are co-chairs of the semi-annual Friends Book Sale for the West Lafayette Public Library.

Linda Eales | Talented Across the Boards

She's the Assistant Treasurer for the West Lafayette Public Library Board, Newsletter Editor for the Purdue Women's Club, and Coordinator of the Global Fest Naturalization Ceremony. Linda brings her knowledge of information technology, sales and marketing, and professional writing to all of her volunteer positions.

Dot Wankat | Feeding and Clothing the Community

Over the past six years, Dot has organized the international food booths at the Global Fest that feed thousands each Labor Day weekend. Dot's passion for sewing has led her to head up the costuming department at West Lafayette Jr./Sr. High for the annual musical productions. She also sews baby quilts and newborn necessities for Newborns in Need.

Karen Springer | Musically-Inclined

Karen choreographs dances for elementary school musicals, bringing zeal and 32 years of experience to the stage. She co-chairs the Musical Dinner Theatre for the West Lafayette Community School Corporation, and is active with the WL Music Boosters. Karen has served in various capacities for the School Board of Trustees as Secretary, Vice-President and President. Since 2002 Karen has helped organize volunteers, commercial vendors and food booths at Global Fest.

Tanny Dawson-Snyder | Recreational Therapist

Tanny shares her talents of singing and guitar playing, and her professional expertise as a recreational therapist to Parks & Recreation special events and as the Global Fest chairman of entertainment. She is the event's MC and has been a volunteer and committee member for the Global Fest since 1997.



Visit Nature's Theatre

A Celery Bog webcam is coming to the Lilly Nature Center. Panoramic views of the wetlands, woods, and the wildlife that live there will be transmitted to a 32" television in the Nature Center, and will be linked to several websites as well. Plans are in the works to be able to access this live natural theatre from your home computer, and for the webcam to be used in WLFI news broadcasts. Already installed is a one-way glass that provides the

spectator an intimate insight into the wild life of robins, chickadees, blue jays, hawks, eagles, deer and other seasonal inhabitants of the 195-acre Celery Bog. The Nature Center is open Wednesday – Saturday from 10 am – 5 pm; Sunday 1 – 5 pm. For more information about the webcam, or facilities and programs at the Celery Bog Nature Area, visit www.westlafayette.in.gov or call Dan Dunten at (765) 775-5172.

Out-of-Class Experience

Purdue students are making a difference at the Sagamore West Farmers Market, as well as providing research into West Lafayette's rich history. "This is a great example of partnering with the University faculty and students – we get their energy and expertise, and they get real-life experiences," said Bev Shaw, Marketing, Grants and Greenspace Administrator for the City, about the joint project.

Construction engineering management students are drawing up plans and making recommendations for physical site improvements at the Farmers Market, while public relations students from COM 353 spent the semester analyzing the profile of market-goers: why they shop there and what would enhance their experience. Some of their recommendations were to advertise on Facebook, create a Twitter account and take on communications students as unpaid interns to attract more customers to the Market.



Herman H. Wright, Police Chief, with son Herman G. Wright in sidecar. Sylvia St., West Lafayette, 1929.

English 108 students have collected the signatures of all the West Lafayette clerk/treasurers since 1866. They also videotaped the police department's historical artifacts, and investigated some historically and architecturally significant buildings in the City: the Miller Building, the Varsity Apartments and the Eclectic Salon (home of West Lafayette's original town hall).

We're now collecting old photos of WL homes and Morton Center/School materials. Please send them to wlhistory@purdue.edu.

NEWS BY EMAIL: To receive city newsletters by email, visit the eNotify signup page under Site Tools at www.westlafayette.in.gov.

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All winter scene photos by Sam Postlethwait.

Committed to Going Greener



A Tree City USA

Stay connected to all City news at www.westlafayette.in.gov

Welcome New Hires

Timothy J. Heath
Fire Chief for the City
of West Lafayette

Kurtis Martin
Street and Sanitation,
Driver/Collector/
Processor

Michele Payne
Wastewater Treatment
Utility, Accounting 1

Anthony Newman
Information Technology,
Manager

Lesley Turner
Clerk-Treasurer,
Administrative Assistant

Tammy Wagner
Parks and Recreation,
Part-time Office
Assistant

Mark Your Calendars

City Offices Closed

February 20 Presidents' Day
April 6 Good Friday
May 8 Primary Election Day

Drug Drop-Off

Thursdays • February 9, March 8,
April 12, May 10
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
WL Police Department

Riverside Skating Center

743-7465 for hours
\$4 per person • \$2 skate rental
cash only

Purdue Convocations

February 26 In the Heights
March 24 Moulin Rouge
April 19 Young Frankenstein

Purdue Bug Bowl and Spring Fest

April 14-15

Purdue Grand Prix

April 21

19th Annual Mor' Danc'n Recital

(Morton Spring Dance Recital)
April 28
4 p.m. • Loeb Playhouse

Sagamore West Farmers Market

3 to 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays beginning May 2

